

The Astorian thinks it not unlikely that Charles W. Fulton may be elected senator at the special session of the legislature, but admits that "it is as safe to predict the weather for next September as to undertake to say what the outcome of the senatorial fight will be." The GAZETTE believes that a senator will be elected on the first joint ballot.

The Russian soldiers invariably wash and dress with extra care before a battle, as they believe that physical cleanliness plays an important part in helping them to enter heaven.—Albany Democrat.

How would they manage the bathing and toilet business if they were surprised while sleeping? The enemy of course would be politely asked to postpone hostilities until they had fixed themselves up a bit.

BE TRUE.

Every republican ought to know that no faction of his party is as large or as influential as the whole party. It is time factions were ignored and factional differences honored with a decorous interment in the silent chambers of oblivion. Let every republican of the present legislature forget the factional struggles within his party and resolutely set his face toward the rising sun of future usefulness of his party in moulding the destinies of the republic.

Let self be forgotten, make no bargains, nor enter into any intrigue that looks toward self aggrandizement, and the future will take care of those that are capable. "He serves his party best who serves his country best." Elect no man U. S. senator that heads a faction or has been so identified with either faction of his party, that his election can in the least be construed into a victory for his faction. Do not elect any one who has ever been connected in the smallest degree with any legislative hold up, or the defeat of any one having his party's caucus nomination, or that has undertaken in any manner, to corrupt the honor of any member of the legislature. Any man "small enough to be a factionist is altogether too small to acceptably fill a seat in the United States senate from Oregon.

WHAT A CHANGE.

Six years ago the populist party was formally organized, and, among other things in its platform at that time, we find the following:

"We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin."

My populist friend of this day, how does that now sound to you? Does it not sound rather doleful, in the face of a \$615,000,000 balance of trade in favor of our nation for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1898, and an excess of exports over imports for the first seven months of 1898 of \$317,132,861? In some of the reform parades two years ago were carried banners upon which were these words:

"A VOTE FOR MCKINLEY MEANS 25 CENTS A BUSHEL FOR WHEAT AND 10 CENTS A BUSHEL FOR CORN."

Would any of our populist friends and readers like to carry such a banner now? We know you would not, for the first year under the Dingley Tariff act the decrease of the use of foreign wool was over 507,000,000 lbs., and sheep that were selling for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per head when that act took effect now readily bring from \$3.00 to \$4.00, besides \$37,000,000 more in wages will be paid in the United States during 1898 than were in 1895, and gold which you all so much feared in 1896 would be the ruin of the republic is constantly flowing into the United States treasury until now there is \$242,000,000 in the reserve fund, the largest ever known. The country is so prosperous that the government is offering to anticipate the payment of interest and principal of some of its obligations.

No nation on earth but ours can do that. You are all happy and glad you are American citizens, you love the country, you are patriots and want to do right but you were simply mistaken in regard to what the country required, that's all. It is mainly to admit mistakes, and improve on the experience of the past. Throw away your free silver fads, your referendum, etc., and look up in the light of the present prosperity, and bless God that your fallacies were not successful when submitted to the intelligence of the American people.

Mr. Mitchell Not a Candidate.

Mr. Mitchell, writing to the Herald-Disseminator, of Albany, Or., under date of Sept. 24th, says: My DEAR SIR: In your issue of yesterday I noticed in your special correspondence from Salem of the 17th inst., under the caption of "Gossip About the Special Session," your anonymous correspondent, among other things, says:

"Candidates for the United States senate are plentiful. Mr. Corbett and Mr. Mitchell are candidates again. Then Mr. Geer, Governor Lord, Binger Hermann, C. W. Fulton, Phil. Metschan, Claud Gatch, M. C. George, Cyrus Dolph, Joseph Simon, Judge Bean, Judge Burnett, and Judge Hewitt, of Albany, are spoken of. There is plenty of senatorial timber to select from."

Speaking for myself only, I desire to say that neither your correspondent, nor any other person, either in Oregon or out of it, has ever had any authority whatever from me, or from anyone who had any right to represent me, to announce that I would be a candidate for re-election to the United States senate either at the coming special or regular sessions; while on the contrary to everyone who has spoken to me, or written to me on the subject, since the extraordinary session was called, I have stated in the frankest and most emphatic manner that I was not a candidate, and would not be, at any stage of the contest for the election of my successor. And I desire to say to you and all others, in this connection, I am not a candidate for the election to the senate, nor will I be at any stage of the contest, nor will my name be used with my consent by anyone, either friend or foe, in that connection.

I was a candidate for re-election as my own successor, as all know, at the regular session of the legislature convened in January, 1897. On the meeting of that legislature a call was issued for a caucus to meet January 14, 1897, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the United States senate. This call was signed by forty-eight republican senators and representatives, or, two more than a majority of the members constituting the legislature. This call, with the names of the members signing it, was as follows:

"We, the undersigned, republicans and republican members of the legislature of the state of Oregon, believing, as we do, in maintaining and perpetuating the organization of the republican party, and also its principles as enunciated in its platform as adopted at the late republican convention at St. Louis, and believing furthermore that in the selection of a candidate for United States senator such organization and its principles will be best promoted by adhering to the will of the majority, as openly and fairly expressed in party caucuses, do hereby agree, a sufficient number to elect consenting thereto, that we will meet in party caucus on Thursday, the 14th day of January, 1897, in the hall of the house of representatives, in Salem, Oregon, at 7 o'clock p. m., and after organization by the selection of a presiding officer and two secretaries, will, by a viva voce vote, as our names are called, express our preference for a candidate for United States senator; and we hereby agree to support for United States senator by our vote in the legislature the person who shall at such caucus receive a majority of all the votes cast therein."

Benson, Bridges, Brownell, Brown, Calbreath, Carter, Chapman, Davis, Craig, Crawford, Dawson, Giesner, Riddle, Gesner, Gowen, Gardane, Driver, Gashline, Hobson, Hogue, Harmon, Hudson, Hughes, Langels, Hope, Hake, Langels, Marsh, Johnson, Merrill, Mitchell, Mulkey, McClung, Palm, Price, Patterson-L.N., Noeler, Smith, J. N., Somers, Reed, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Stanley, Vaughan, Veness, Wagner.

This caucus was held at the time and place specified in the call. There were personally present at such caucus forty-four of the persons whose names were attached to the call. The four who signed the call and were not present at the caucus were senators, Carter, of Benton county, Mulkey, of Polk, and Gesner, of Marion, and Representative Riddle, of Douglas. Senator Carter, however, sent the chairman, and members of the caucus a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"Salem, Or., Jan. 14, 1897. To the Chairman and Members of the Republican caucus to be held by the Republican members of the present session of the Oregon Legislature, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the United States senate.

"Gentlemen: I regret to state that I have been called home, and will be unable to be present at the caucus to be held this evening. I wish to say, however, that if present I should vote for Senator J. H. Mitchell; but if the caucus shall nominate some other gentleman I will support him, it being my intention, I assure you, to abide by the will of the majority, and to support the nominee of your caucus.

"Very respectfully yours.

TOLBERT CARTER."

Senator Mulkey, the evening of the caucus, sent me a telegram from his home at Dallas, of which the following is a copy:

"Dallas, Or., Jan. 14, 1897.

"Hon. John H. Mitchell, Wilamette Hotel, Salem, Oregon: I have just arrived in response

to a telegram announcing the sickness of my little daughter. Find her very ill. Whatever caucus decides on tonight I will abide by. B. F. MULKEY."

At this caucus, so held as above, I had on roll-call and open viva voce vote, the distinguished honor conferred on me of receiving every one of the forty-four votes present as a candidate of the party, and was by the chairman of the caucus, the late Senator Hughes, of Washington county, declared to be the unanimous nominee of the party for United States senator. There were, therefore, it will be seen, forty-six republicans, a clear majority of the whole legislature, declaring solemnly by their votes and by their signatures in my favor as a candidate and nominee of the party.

Notwithstanding these facts, four of the names mentioned in your Salem correspondent as being at present candidates for election to the United States senate, namely, H. W. Corbett, Governor William P. Lord, Cyrus Dolph, and Joseph Simon, and others controlled by them, combined and confederated together and with certain members of the legislature, some of them elected as republicans, others elected as populists, and still others as democrats, and by the use of an unlimited amount of money and other disreputable means, sustained in their miserable anarchist scheme, by the Oregonian, held up the legislature, and during the whole session prevented not only a vote being taken for United States senator, but also the passage of any appropriation bill or other legislation whatever, thus depriving the state for two years of its proper quota of representation in the United States senate, and imposing upon the taxpayers the burdens incident to the extraordinary session of the legislature now convened, and, what is infinitely worse than all this, bringing our people and state into contempt in the eyes of every right minded person outside of the state.

Notwithstanding I was then the nominee of the party, and finding it was impossible to have a vote, I, on February 18, 1897, addressed a letter to Hon. Samuel Hughes, state senator from Washington county and chairman of the republican conference, in which I recited the facts relating to the caucus, and referred to the attitude of those holding up the legislature, and which letter concluded as follows:

"The history of politics since the beginning of the government fails to furnish a parallel in any state to the situation thus presented. The spectacle presented is that of a minority, realizing their lack of power to dictate and control in the selection of a speaker of the house of representatives, and in the choosing of a United States senator, deliberately refusing to qualify and take their seats in the house, thereby intending to prevent the presence of a quorum, and absolutely blocking the election of both speaker and senator, and legislation as well. Such a proceeding, whatever may be the motive of those promoting it, tends strongly and inevitably toward anarchy. It is the most dangerous menace, not only to the integrity of the organization of the republican party, but to the very existence of our government, both state and national. It is a proceeding that should receive the unqualified condemnation of every law-abiding citizen of all political parties. Those who give it their countenance or support, either directly or inferentially, of whatever party affiliation, deserve to be classed with the enemies of law and order. To permit it to be established as a precedent would be to set in motion an element of discord and disintegration that will eventually sap the very foundation of our political institutions.

"In view, however, of the present status of the United States senate, as it will be after the 4th of March next, it is of the utmost importance that Oregon should at this time elect a senator. This fact must be appreciated by every true republican.

"The republican party is infinitely greater than any one man. Its interests are paramount to those of any one individual. It is your duty to elect a republican senator, if in your power; and while, as your nominee, I personally am ready and willing, as you all know, to stand by you and with you for the integrity of your organization and the maintenance and perpetuity of the rule of the majority, still I desire to say to you now, in this public manner, that while I believe that the minority should not be permitted to dictate to the majority, and that there is now a principle involved in this contest which is infinitely greater than the interests of any one individual, yet as I have repeatedly stated to each of you individually during the last thirty days, I do not control your judgment or assume any right to direct your forces. Therefore whenever you can see your way clear to choose republican senator other than myself, then you must not for one moment permit the fact of my nomination or of my candidacy to stand in the way. In other words, I am in your hands; you have made me a nominee, do with me as you please, and I will be content. Do your whole duty to the republican party, the state of Oregon, and the nation. You know full well the character of

the combination against you and the influences through which it found its origin and by which it has been maintained. Exercise your own judgment, keeping steadily in view the best interests not only of the republican party, but of the state and nation. "Thanking you and each of you cordially for the unfaltering support you have given me, I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

"JOHN H. MITCHELL."

And again, four days later, on Feb. 22, 1897, I addressed another letter to Chairman Hughes, chairman of the republican conference, of which the following is a copy:

"Salem, Or., Feb. 22, 1897.

"Hon. Samuel Hughes, Chairman Republican Conference, Salem, Oregon.

"My Dear Sir: I understand there is a strong disposition upon the part of the majority of the republicans to adjourn the legislature sine die without further effort to secure the election of a senator. This would leave the state only partly represented in the senate of the United States, the effect of which, in all probability, would be to place the control of the senate in the hands of those opposed to the republican party, in which event the defeat of tariff legislation at the coming extraordinary session of congress would be assured. It seems to me, therefore, there is a paramount duty resting upon you to make one more determined effort before final adjournment to secure the election of a senator. There are many prominent republicans located in different sections of the state eminently qualified for the position, men who would do credit to the party, the state and nation. I will co-operate with you and all other republicans in the legislature in endeavoring to bring about the election of such republican as the republican conference to whom this letter is addressed, will agree upon.

"Yours very sincerely,

"JOHN H. MITCHELL."

Fearing, however, that if a vote were permitted I might still be elected, these conspirators and their associates, aiders and abettors, against law, order, and party organization, persisted to the end in preventing a vote.

Notwithstanding the facts just recited, there are many republicans in Oregon today who make claim to, and who desire to be classed as truthful, honorable men, who, either through ignorance of the facts, or for the reason that they are willfully perverse, persist in reiterating, parrot-fashion, in season and out of season, the miserable falsehood of the Oregonian and its satellites, that "Mitchell and his supporters held up the legislature."

No more wicked or grossly unjust misrepresentation was ever invented or resorted to by any unscrupulous set of politicians, for the purpose of diverting attention from their own inexcusable and reprehensible conduct.

And notwithstanding the further fact that I cordially and earnestly aided to the extent of my power in the election of McKinley and Hobart, as did all my friends generally throughout the state, and have since and do now cordially support the administration in power, this cabal, led by the editor of the Oregonian, while continually attacking the administration, the president and his cabinet, persist in denouncing, not only myself, but every prominent republican in the state who in the past supported me politically, as factionists, as not good republicans, as not faithful and loyal supporters of the party, and all of whom it is insisted should be read out of the party.

Now these same men come forward and parade themselves as the only true republicans of the state, and Mr. Corbett and Mr. Simon, the leaders of this legislative holdup, insist that they are the proper and logical candidates for senator and that one or the other should be elected.

I submit to you, Mr. Editor, and to all concerned, as I did to the late legislature when I was willing to waive my candidacy, although the nominee of the party as stated, there are many prominent republicans residing in different portions of the state, (exclusive not only of myself but also of the men who were prominent in this disgraceful legislative hold-up, and who promoted and engineered it, and the names of some of the more prominent of whom I have mentioned), and republicans who have not been prominent in any of the factional fights in Oregon, who would, if elected, be a credit to the party, the state and nation. The names of some of these gentlemen have been mentioned by your Salem correspondent, namely Mr. Geer, Mr. Hermann, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Metschan, Mr. Gatch, Mr. George, Judge Burnett, Judge Bean and ex-Judge Hewitt, and any one of whom, if elected, would be an honor to the state and the republican party, while in addition to those mentioned by your correspondent there are a number of others in different sections of the state who would come within the category. All of these gentlemen are true republicans, and clean,

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able men, while not one of them is embarrassed either in mind or body with any of those infirmities inseparable from age.

The election of any of these gentlemen, it is submitted, or of that of any one of numbers of others whose names might be mentioned, will tend to the destruction of factions, and to the unification of the party, while the election of any of the men who were prominent in the legislative hold-up, and notably that of Mr. Corbett or Mr. Simon, the ring-leaders and revenue producers of that anarchistic proceeding, will tend to perpetuate factional strife, and would result ultimately in the disintegration of the party.

Since the adjournment of the legislature in March, 1897, although continually subjected to gross misrepresentations and abuse by vindictive journalists and subsidized penny-a-liners, I have held my peace. I have not responded either by speech, letter, or interview, trusting and believing by quietly withdrawing myself from politics a candidate for the senate or any other office, that the lapse of time would ultimately develop a better general knowledge of the real facts connected with the legislative hold-up, and at the same time awaken to some degree a sense of justice in the minds of even malignant partisan opponents. The republican party and the state of Oregon have honored me as they have never honored any other of its citizens. For three full terms they have given me a seat in the senate of the United States, while on two other occasions I have been the choice as expressed in party caucuses as the candidate of the party for United States senator. I have therefore, no personal clench either for the party or the state, and do not intend further to make any. I am frank to confess I was earnestly desirous of re-election at the close of my last term, as my position on committees in the senate was second to none in that body either in dignity, influence or power, a position that no new senator, whatever may be his ability or career under the rules and practices of the senate, hope to attain short of a service of at least twelve years, and I was therefore in a position to have done much for the state and country. But as the matter stands today, having firmly determined many months since I would not be a candidate for re-election, I have but one ambition and that is that I may re-establish myself in my profession in this city and state, and have and retain the respect and confidence of the people, irrespective of party of the state that has thus so highly honored me. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I have the gratification of knowing that during the eighteen years of my service in the senate I have endeavored to labor faithfully and conscientiously for what I believed to be the best interests of the state, the coast and nation; and never during all that period did I cast a vote on any question, made a party issue in the senate, except with the republican party, nor did I ever cast a vote during all that period on any question that was contrary to the platform of the republican party of the state upon which the legislature which elected me was elected.

Notwithstanding these facts, and not withstanding the position of myself and friends at the present time in reference to the approaching senatorial contest, I shall of course expect that myself and friends will in the future, as in the past, be the subject of gross misrepresentation and abuse by the organs of that faction which organized and carried into successful execution the conspiracy against the large majority of the republicans in the late legislature.

Further than as above indicated I do not intend personally to take any part in the approaching senatorial contest. On the contrary I expect in a few days to leave for Washington City, to be present at the opening of the supreme court of the United States, where I have professional business calling me, and therefore do not expect to be either at Salem or in the state during the contest.

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